Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application PCT/EP2003/009981 filed September 9, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the Title on page 1 and replace with the following capitalized Title:

BOREHOLE TREATMENT AGENT CONTAINING LOW-TOXIC OIL PHASE.

At page 1, in the line after the Title, enter the following new heading and paragraph:

Related Applications

This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 claiming priority from application PCT/EP2003/009981 filed September 9, 2003; claiming priority from German application DE 102 43 312.7 filed September 18, 2002, the entire contents of each application are incorporated herein by reference.

Please add the following new heading on page 1, before line 4:

Field of the Invention.

Please add the following new heading on page 1, before line 9:

Background of the Invention.

Please add the following new heading on page 3, before line 22: **Brief Description of the Invention**.

Please add the following new heading on page 4, before line 13: **Detailed Description of the Invention**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

As component a), use is made in accordance with the invention of linear or branched paraffins having from 5 to 22 carbon atoms. Paraffins – more correctly referred to alkanes – are, as is known, saturated hydrocarbons, which for the linear and branched representatives follow the general empirical formula [[C_nH_{2n+1}]] $\underline{C_nH_{2n+2}}$. The cyclic alkanes follow the general empirical formula C_nH_{2n}. Particular preference is given to the linear and branched paraffins, whereas cyclic paraffins are less preferred. The use of branched paraffins is particularly preferred. Also preferred are paraffins which are liquid at room temperature, in other words those having from 5 to 16 carbon atoms per molecule. However, it may also be preferred to use paraffins of 17 to 22 carbon atoms which have a waxlike consistency. It is preferred, however, to use mixtures of the different paraffins, and particularly preferred if these mixtures are still liquid at 21°C. Such mixtures may be formed, for example, from paraffins having from 10 to 21 carbon atoms. As far as the toxicity is concerned, especially in the Leptocheirus plumulosus test, the performance of paraffins alone is generally inadequate. Typical F values for paraffins lie between 2.7 and 4.53.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Besides components a) and/or b) and c) it is possible for the oil phases to include other, water-insoluble constituents, provided that they are environmentally compatible. Specific further particularly suitable mixture components of the oil phases of the invention are therefore:

(i) esters of C1-5 monocarboxylic acids and mono- and/or polyfunctional alcohols, the radicals of monohydric alcohols having at least 6, preferably at least 8, carbon atoms and the polyhydric alcohols possessing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms per molecule,

(ii) mixtures of secondary esters selected from the group consisting of propyl carboxylate, butyl carboxylate, pentyl carboxylate, hexyl carboxylate, heptyl carboxylate, octyl carboxylate, nonyl carboxylate, decyl carboxylate, undecyl carboxylate, dodecyl carboxylate, tridecyl carboxylate, tetradecyl carboxylate, pentadecyl carboxylate, hexadecyl carboxylate, heptadecyl carboxylate, octadecyl carboxylate, nonadecyl carboxylate, eicosyl carboxylate, ~~uneico~~ uneicosyl carboxylate, doeicosyl carboxylate and isomers thereof, the secondary esters each having a carboxylate radical of 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

(iii) water-insoluble ethers of monohydric alcohols having from 6 to 24 carbon atoms,

[[(iii)]] (iv) water-insoluble alcohols having from 8 to 36 carbon atoms,

[[(iv)]] (v) poly-alpha-olefins (PAO) and alpha-olefins

[[(v)]] (vi) mixtures of components (i) to (v).

Please replace the heading on page 21, line 1, with the following new heading: **WE CLAIM**:.

Please add new page 28 containing the Abstract of the Disclosure, submitted herewith.